IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

processing means for carrying out at least a processing of decoding encoded unit data and a pre-decoding processing related to said unit data, said pre-decoding processing being carried out prior to said processing of decoding;

storage means where decoded data obtained on said processing of decoding are written and transiently stored, said storage means including at least one transient storage area and data capacity changing means for changing the data capacity of said transient storage area depending on a total length of reproducing time for said unit data; and

outputting means from which the decoded data stored in said storage means is continuously read out and output as data for reproduction/outputting; said processing means commencing the processing of decoding of said unit data after the end of the pre-decoding processing related to said unit data.

Claim 2 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein, if second unit data is reproduced/output next to first unit data, said processing means commences pre-decoding processing related to said second unit data after the end of the processing of decoding of said first unit data.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said storage means includes a plurality of transient storage areas;

said processing means sequentially writes ~~writing~~ decoded data, obtained on processing of decoding, in said plurality of ~~plural~~ transient storage areas, from one data capacity of a ~~said~~ transient storage area to another;

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said outputting means reading out the written decoded data each time said decoded

data is written in said transient storage area and outputting the data as data for

reproduction/outputting.

Claim 4 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1

wherein said processing of decoding for unit data is the processing of decryption and/or

demodulation; and wherein said pre-decoding processing related to unit data is tamper check

processing for said unit data.

Claim 5 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1

wherein said processing of decoding for unit data is the processing of decryption and/or

demodulation; and wherein said pre-decoding processing related to unit data is processing of

decryption and/or demodulation for relevant data pertinent to said unit data.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to

claim 1 wherein said storage means includes a plurality of transient storage areas; ~~and data~~

~~capacity changing means for changing the data capacity of said transient storage area of said~~

~~storage means;~~

said data capacity changing means changing the data area of said <u>plurality of</u> transient

storage <u>areas</u> ~~area~~ depending on the duration of processing time needed for said pre-decoding

processing relevant to said unit data.

Claim 8 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 7 wherein, if said pre-decoding processing relevant to unit data is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation of relevant data, related to said unit data, the duration of the processing time needed for said pre-decoding processing is estimated based on the ancillary information added as relevant data.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said storage means includes a plurality of sets of transient storage areas, ~~each~~ ~~set being made up of a plurality of transient storage areas and being different in storage~~ ~~capacities;~~

said data capacity changing means selecting one [[of]] transient storage <u>area</u> ~~areas~~ <u>from one</u> of said <u>plurality of</u> ~~plural~~ sets of <u>transient storage areas</u> depending on the duration of the processing time retained to be needed for said pre-decoding processing.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An information processing method comprising<u>:</u>

pre-decoding ~~processing relevant to~~ encoded unit data;

<u>changing a capacity of at least one transient storage area depending on a total length of reproducing time for said unit data;</u>

<u>storing said unit data in at least one transient storage area;</u>

~~processing of decoding for~~ decoding said unit data after the end of said pre-decoding ~~processing;~~

~~processing of storage for~~ transiently storing decoded data obtained on said processing of decoding; and

~~outputting processing for~~ successively reading out said decoded data transiently stored

by said processing of storage and for outputting the read-out decoded data as data for

reproduction/outputting.

Claim 11 (Original): The information processing method according to claim 10

wherein, when second unit data is reproduced/output next to first unit data, pre-decoding

processing relevant to second unit data is commenced after the end of the processing of

decoding of first unit data.

Claim 12 (Original): The information processing method according to claim 10

wherein said processing of decoding is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation and

wherein said pre-decoding processing is tamper check processing for said unit data.

Claim 13 (Original): The information processing method according to claim 10

wherein said processing of decoding is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation and

wherein said pre-decoding processing is the processing of decryption and/or demodulation

for relevant data related to said unit data.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to

claim 10, further comprising:

~~wherein said processing of storage is carried out for storage means having a plurality~~

~~of transient storage areas, and wherein the method further comprises data capacity change~~

~~processing for~~ changing the data capacity of said <u>at least one</u> transient storage area depending

on the duration of the processing time retained to be needed for pre-decoding processing

relevant to said unit data.

Claim 16 (Original): The information processing method according to claim 15

wherein, if said pre-decoding processing relevant to said unit data is the processing of

decryption and/or demodulation for relevant data related to unit data, the duration of the

processing time, retained to be needed for said pre-decoding processing, is estimated based

on the ancillary information annexed to said relevant data.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to

claim 10 further comprising:

~~wherein said storage means includes a plurality of sets of transient storage areas, each~~

~~set being made up of a plurality of transient storage areas and being different in storage~~

~~capacities; said data capacity changing means~~ selecting one [[of]] transient storage area ~~areas~~

of a plurality of sets of transient storage areas, each set being made up of a plurality of

transient storage areas and having different storage capacities, depending on the duration of

the processing time retained to be needed for said pre-decoding processing.

Claim 18 (New): An information processing apparatus comprising:

a decoder configured to decode encoded unit data and to pre-decode data related to

said unit data, pre-decoding being carried out prior to decoding, the decoder commencing

decoding of said unit data after an end of pre-decoding the data related to said unit data;

a storage unit configured to receive and transiently store decoded data decoded by the

decoder, said storage unit including at least one transient storage area and a data capacity

changing unit configured to change a data capacity of said transient storage area depending

on a total length of reproducing time for said unit data; and

an output unit configured to continuously read out and output the decoded data stored

in said storage unit.

Claim 19 (New): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18

wherein, if second unit data is reproduced/output next to first unit data, said decoder is

configured to commence pre-decoding data related to said second unit data after an end of

decoding said first unit data.

Claim 20 (New): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein

the decoder is configured to sequentially write decoded data, obtained during decoding, in

said at least one transient storage area, from one data capacity of said transient storage area to

another, and said output unit is configured to read out the written decoded data each time said

decoded data is written in said at least one transient storage area.

Claim 21 (New): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein

said decoder is configured to perform decryption and/or demodulation processing and to

perform tamper check processing for said unit data as the pre-decoding data related to unit

data.

Claim 22 (New): The information processing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein

said decoder is configured to perform decryption and/or demodulation processing and two

perform decryption and/or demodulation for relevant data pertinent to said unit data as the

pre-decoding data related to unit data.